#### **Chickamauga and Chattanooga** National Military Park

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



## Commemoration of the 149<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga

September 14 - 20, 2012

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – TOURS & PROGRAMS:

Chickamauga Battlefield Tour – 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Join a Park Ranger for a two hour tour of Chickamauga Battlefield. This program will cover many of the highlights of the Battle of Chickamauga – the second bloodiest battle of the American Civil War. This driving tour will begin at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center.

"Lightning at Alexander's Bridge: Wilder's Brigade on Chickamauga's First Day" – 7:00 PM – 1½ hours (Jim Ogden)

The bridge over Chickamauga Creek at John Alexander's farm was one of the key points Confederates needed to seize to be able to attack the Union left at Chickamauga. Defending that crossing was a portion of John T. Wilder's Brigade of Mounted Infantry. Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden for a ninety minute, one mile walking tour and learn how Wilder, with just a portion of his command, cost the Confederates critical time in launching their attack.

From the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center, follow the "Special Event" signs to the intersection of Alexander Bridge Road and Alexander-Viniard Road where the program will begin. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, water, and a flashlight (although we should be finished before dark) are recommended.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 – TOURS & PROGRAMS:

"Cannons Roar Again at Chickamauga" – 10:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:45 PM, 2:45 PM, 3:45 PM, and dusk (check with Visitor Center Desk for exact time)

Park visitors are invited to experience the "rolling thunder" as a complete battery of cannons return to Chickamauga Battlefield. Living historians will be firing the cannons throughout the weekend. Experience the "rolling thunder" as six cannons fire their explosive charges, and feel the ground tremble from the power of these weapons of destruction.

The demonstrations will occur at the Poe Field, with parking only within designated areas. Follow the directions from the Visitor Center to the parking areas. Park volunteers will be present to aid in parking.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 – TOURS & PROGRAMS: (continued)

#### Chickamauga Battlefield Tour - 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

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#### Bicycle Tour of Chickamauga Battlefield - 9:30 AM - 11/2 hours

Join a park ranger on a bicycle tour of Chickamauga Battlefield. The tour will cover select areas of the park that define the progression of the battle 149 years ago, as well as locations where individual actions from soldiers fighting on both sides distinguished their commitment to their causes.

The bicycle tour will begin in the lower parking lot of the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center. A limited number of bicycles will be provided, and may be reserved by calling the Visitor Center (423-752-5213, ext. 123). Those participants under the age of 16 are required to wear a bicycle helmet. It is recommended that all participants bring water, and wear appropriate clothing relating to the weather.

## "'Occupied After A Brisk Skirmish:' Buckner's Corps Crosses the Chickamauga at Thedford's & Dalton's Fords" – 9:00 AM – 2 hours (Jim Ogden)

To attack the Union army on September 18, 1863, Braxton Bragg had to have troops cross the steep-banked Chickamauga. Two bridge and two ford sites were selected for the primary crossings. Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden for a two hour, three mile round trip hike down to the banks of the Chickamauga at Thedford's and Dalton's fords to learn about the crossings of Alexander Stewart's and William Preston's divisions at these less well known, but key, crossing points.

This tour will begin at the Thedford's & Dalton's fords road gate on Alexander-Viniard Road. From the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center, go south on the historic LaFayette Road and follow the "Special Event" signs to Alexander-Viniard Road and the parking area for the tour. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, and water are recommended.

#### "In the Footsteps of Sam Watkins" – 12:00 Noon – 1½ hours (Brian Autry)

Join Park Ranger Brian Autry as he retells the story of Sam Watkins, a private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry who participated in the Battle of Chickamauga. Stand in the exact location Private Watkins stood as the Ranger describes the emotions and events he experienced during the conflict. Readings from Private Watkins' diary relating to the site will be part of the tour. Follow the ranger as he conveys the story of Joel Campbell, the flag bearer of Sam Watkins regiment, how he died, and the story of how Private Campbell's personal marker came into existence within the battlefield.

The 1½ hour program will begin in the picnic area parking lot at the corner of Alexander Bridge Road and the Brotherton Road. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a bottle of water.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 – TOURS & PROGRAMS: (continued)

#### "The Fight at Viniard Farm" - 2:00 PM - 1½ hours (Jim Ogden/Dave Powell)

With a feature that became known as the "Ditch of Death," it was perhaps the area of most intense combat in the Battle of Chickamauga. Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden and Historian/Author Dave Powell for a ninety minute, one mile walking tour looking at the fighting on the afternoon of September 19, 1863 at the Viniard Farm.

The 1½ hour program will begin at Tour Stop 5 on LaFayette Road. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, and water are suggested.

## "Close Up and Forward, Men: The Men who charged the Guns" - $4:30\ PM-45$ minutes (Lee White)

Who were the men that charged into the face of death in the Poe Field? This program will tell the stories of some of the men who rushed into an artillery hell on the late afternoon of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Join Park Ranger Lee White for a talk to learn the stories of some of General Billy Bate's men who tested their mettle against metal.

This talk will last approximately 45 minutes. This talk will take place on the south side of Poe Field near the 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia Monument. Parking will be at the Georgia Monument or on the side of the north end of the Poe Road. A bottle of water and a folding chair are recommended.

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 – TOURS & PROGRAMS:**

### "Cannons Roar Again at Chickamauga" – 10:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:45 PM, and 2:45 PM

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#### Chickamauga Battlefield Tour - 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

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#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 – TOURS & PROGRAMS: (continued)

#### "The Vice President Attacks the Left" - 10:00 AM - 1½ hours (Jim Ogden)

Just two and a half years out of office as Vice President of the United States, John C. Breckinridge led Confederates in the opening attack on the final day of the Battle of Chickamauga. Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden for a ninety minute, mile and a half walking tour looking at what could have been *the* decisive attack on the Union left.

The tour will begin and end at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, and water are suggested.

#### "Breakthrough in Brotherton Field" 11:45 AM – 1½ hours (Dave Powell)

On Sunday, September 20, 1863, Union Brigadier-General Thomas Wood received the "fateful order of the day" which created the gap which, in turn, allowed Lt. General James Longstreet's Confederate Wing to pour through the Union lines and rout the Union Army.

Join Historian/Author Dave Powell for a 90 minute program near the Brotherton cabin. Parking will be west of the LaFayette Road on Dyer Road just past the cabin. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, and water are suggested

## "Four-Legged Soldiers: Horses and Mules in the Civil War" - 1:30 PM $-1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (Richard Manion)

During the Civil War, losses were measured through human life, but what about the animals that moved these massive armies? During the Battle of Chickamauga, Lieutenant Van Pelt's Battery suffered incredible losses - over fifty horses. By the end of the battle, only a single horse of his original battery survived the two day slaughter. This story and many others will be discussed during this presentation.

Join Historian and Park Volunteer Richard Manion for a 90 minute driving tour of Chickamauga Battlefield discussing the various functions of the mounted service during the battle. This program will begin at Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a bottle of water.

## "Antietam Yankees at Chickamauga: Two Ohio Regiments and the War that Changed the Year Before" – 3:30 PM – 1 hour (Jim Ogden)

One year and two days earlier and just days short of the anniversary of the issuance of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, two Union regiments that had fought in the Battle of Antietam battled here in the valley of the River of Death. Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden for a one hour, less than one mile walking tour looking at the experience of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Ohio in both the battle that changed the war and at Chickamauga.

The tour begins on Battleline Road at Poe Field; follow the "Special Event" signs from the Visitor Center. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, and water are suggested.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 – TOURS & PROGRAMS: (continued)

## "That Vortex of Hell: Cleburne's Night Assault" – 7:00 PM – 1 hour, 45 minutes (Lee White)

As the fighting died down in the evening of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1863, soldiers of both armies expected the fighting to cease, but in rare night action the Confederates made one final desperate attack and plunged the soldiers of both armies into the "Vortex of Hell."

Join a Park Ranger Lee White for a walking tour of approximately 1½ miles. The program will start at the picnic area at the intersection of Alexander's Bridge Road and Brotherton Road. A flashlight, bottle of water, and good walking shoes are recommended.

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – TOURS & PROGRAMS:**

"Decisions at the Crossroads: Bushrod Johnson, John Hood & Dan McCook near Jay's Mill, September 18, 1863" – 7:00 PM – 1½ hours – (Jim Ogden)

Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden for a ninety minute, one mile walking tour of the Jay's Mill area looking at the decisions made there by Confederates Major General John Bell Hood and Brigadier General Bushrod Rust Johnson and Union Colonel Daniel McCook on the evening and night of September 18, 1863. Along the way, you'll learn how those decisions critically influenced the developing Battle of Chickamauga. Comfortable, supportive footware, clothing appropriate for the weather, and a flashlight are recommended.

The program will begin at Jay's Mill near the intersection of Jay's Mill and Brotherton roads on the Chickamauga Battlefield; from the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center follow the Special Event signs to the beginning point of the tour.

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - TOURS & PROGRAMS:

#### "Ambrose Bierce at Chickamauga" - 3:00 PM - 2 hours - (Anton Heinlein)

American author Ambrose Bierce fought four years in the Civil War. The carnage at Chickamauga, seared in his memory, forever haunted him: "When I ask myself what has happened to Ambrose Bierce, the youth who fought at Chickamauga, I am bound to answer that he is dead." His idealism, destroyed by the war, was replaced by cynicism, darkness, and irony which reflected in his writings. Out of these swirling emotions came perhaps his most compelling story – an enthralling five page classic called simply, "Chickamauga." Many have referred to it as America's finest short story.

Come with Park Ranger Anton Heinlein and explore Ambrose Bierce's Chickamauga. The two hour program begin in front of the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center and will car-caravan to Bierce sites throughout the Battlefield. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a bottle of water.

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 – TOURS & PROGRAMS: (continued)

"The New Union Line at Kelly Field" - 7:00 PM - 1½ hours (Jim Ogden)

On the night of September 19, 1863, Union troops in George Thomas' sector pulled back to a low rise of ground just to the east of Kelly Field. Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden for a ninety minute, one mile walking tour looking at the position developed that night for the Union left.

The tour will begin on Battleline Road near the Texas Monument; follow the Special Event signs from the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, a flashlight and water are suggested.

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20- TOURS & PROGRAMS:

"They Can Kill Us, But Whip Us Never!" - Colonel Charles G. Harker's Brigade Actions at the North Dyer Field and Snodgrass Farm" - 1:00 PM - 1 hour - (Anton Heinlein)

As Confederate forces advanced through the Dyer field following the breakthrough at the Brotherton farm, Union forces positioned themselves at the north end of the Dyer field and began firing into the swarming Confederates. These Union troops were commanded by Colonel Charles G. Harker - one of the brightest and best brigade commanders in the Army of the Cumberland.

Join Park Ranger Anton Heinlein for a one-hour walking tour to discuss the conduct of Harker's brigade at the Dyer field and Snodgrass farm. The program will begin at South Carolina Monument on the Glenn-Kelly Road. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a bottle of water.

"General George H. Thomas and the Union Defenses of Snodgrass Hill and Horseshoe Ridge" – 3:30 PM - 1½ hour - (Anton Heinlein)

Join Park Ranger Anton Heinlein for a 90 minute walking tour that will discuss the complex Union defenses that were developed and implemented on the afternoon of September 20, 1863.

The tour begins at near the Snodgrass Cabin located next to Tour Stop #8. Special Event Parking signs near the cabin will identify the correct parking location. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a bottle of water.

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20- TOURS & PROGRAMS: (continued)

"Withdrawal of the Union Left – The Close of the Battle on the Kelly Field Line" 7:00 PM – 1½ hours – (Jim Ogden)

Even after Longstreet's breakthrough and while the "Rock of Chickamauga" stood on Snodgrass Hill, the contending forces arrayed around and opposite Kelly Field, the Union left, continued to battle into late afternoon. As sunset approached, though, the blue brigades on this line received orders to pull out. With Confederates to their front, on their flanks, and even to their rear, doing so would be tight. And, the Southerners launched an attack that one of their colonels would say gave "a complete victory to our arms."

Join National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden for a 90 minute, one mile walking tour exploring the *other* close of battle at Chickamauga. The tour begins on Battleline Road near the Texas Monument; follow the Special Event signs from the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center. Comfortable, supportive footwear, clothing appropriate to the weather, a flashlight and water are suggested.

#### LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATIONS

The Artillery demonstrations will take place at the north end of Poe Field. Parking will be at the north end of Poe Field. Please follow the directions of the parking signs and parking volunteers at the site.

SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 15	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16
11:15 AM	11:15 AM
12:30 PM	12:30 PM
1:45 PM	1:45 PM
2:45 PM	2:45 PM
3:45 PM	
Dusk	

# PLEASE NOTE THAT IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING WILL BE OFFERED INSIDE THE VISITOR CENTER. PLEASE INQUIRE AT THE VISITOR CENTER INFORMATION DESK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was established in 1890 by the veterans that fought here 149 years ago. The purpose of its establishment as stated in the enabling legislation is, "To preserve for historical and military study the sites some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting of the Civil War."

Moccasin Bend National Archeological District was established in 2003. The purpose of its establishment as stated in the enabling legislation is, "In order to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of the public the national significant archeological and historic resources located on the peninsula known as Moccasin Bend, Tennessee, there is established as a unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District."

Please help us in this preservation effort by not climbing on monuments or cannon, and report any vandalism you observe to either 706-866-9241 or 423-752-5213.

Thank you for supporting your National Parks, and we hope that you enjoyed your visit to your park.